

REASONS

AGAINST

The BILL now depending in PARLIAMENT,

INTITULED,

A BILL for Inlarging and Regulating the Trade to
the Levant Seas.

IT has been owned by the *Levant* Company, in a much fuller Manner than any body else could have made out, that their Trade has been, for some Years past, in a declining State; and they have been so far from endeavouring to conceal a Matter of such infinite Concern to the Publick, that, long before there had been any Mention of their Affair in Parliament, or that they had felt the Effects of the Retardments to which the *Spanish* War exposed them, they had made Representations, and expressed their Apprehensions where they ought, and thereby done all that was in their Power towards answering the Trust reposed in them by the Nation.

The State of this Trade has since been the Subject of a publick Inquiry; and the *Turkey* Company hope they have given a very clear and full View of the several Springs, from whence alone this Decay of their Trade is derived.

They have shewn, that, when new Competitors put in for a Share of a Trade, they must succeed in a greater or less Degree, according as they have natural, or can come at artificial Advantages to work upon.

That, during the most flourishing Time of their Trade, it was chiefly carried on in a coarser Sort of Cloths, made altogether of *English* Wool, in which no other Nation could vie with them.

That the *French* Court, bent upon all the Means that could increase its Influence and Power, had, during a Course of long Prosperity after the Treaty of the *Pyrenees*, turned its Views to Trade, particularly that of the *Levant*, which, under the wise Administration of *Monf. Colbert*, was pursued with great Assiduity, and a vast publick Expence; till by Degrees, and by the Help of *Premio's*, and the Encouragement of great Conveniencies for the Manufacturers, built by the Publick, and enjoyed by the others Rent-free, the Cloth Manufactures of *Languedoc* were brought to such Perfection, that a Cloth made of Two-thirds *Spanish* Wool, and One-third Wool of that Province and the Neighbourhood, was and is made; which sells at as low a Price in *Turkey*, as the *English* can sell a coarse Cloth of 9 *l.* to 10 *l.* which is made of Wool not worth above Ninepence the Pound; whereas the Wool the *French* Cloth is made of, on the lowest Medium, must be worth at the least Two Shillings the Pound. This Superiority of Materials, and a finer Spining, makes a more shewy Cloth, which must find Vent in a warm Climate, where a thin Cloth is generally preferred, and for some Purposes no other is used.

That the *French* also make Cloths of All *Spanish* Wool for *Turkey*, which tho' they sell cheaper than we can afford our Superfines, yet it is not in the same Proportion, and ours are better; but yet the Bulk of the Trade is in the lower Sorts.

And tho' there are *English* Refine Cloths made of a Mixture of *Spanish* and *English* Wool, yet as the lowest Sorts of them come to at least Fourteen Pounds the short Cloth of 33 Yards, this Sort cannot stand a Competition with the *French* Cloth, which is sold so much cheaper.

That the *French*, by this acquired Advantage of *Spanish* Wool, have got the better of the natural one we had of working up the Wool of our Growth into Cloth for *Turkey*, not by imitate-

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ng our Cloth, tho', for the Introduction of theirs, they borrowed our Names; but by producing a new Manufacture, better suited to that Climate, they have given a new Taste to the People; which we must comply with, or be content with the Share we now enjoy of that Trade, (if even that can be preserved) under whatsoever Regulations, or by whomsoever, the Trade may be carried on from hence.

That this Mischief has been represented to our Clothiers; but their Attempts to make their Cloth thinner, and their pretending to sell it cheaper, have all ended in making it worse in Quality; so that those who used to deal in it abroad, are afraid to meddle with it: Whereas the *Languedoc* Manufactures are under a publick Inspection, whereby the Quality is ascertained, and the Buyers trust to the Faith of the publick Seal or Standard, rather than to their own Judgment.

That the *French* have increased their Trade to *Turkey*, by carrying thither Indigo and Coffee in great Quantities, which we have not, and likewise Sugar, which they sell much cheaper than we can, whether we should send that of our own Plantations from hence, or of the *Brazils* from *Lisbon*.

With regard to the other Branch of the *Levant* Trade, which is the Returns, upon which our Exports intirely depend, and we take for our Manufactures and Produce sold there, it has been shewn,

That since the late Czar of *Muscovy* Peter's Conquest of the Provinces of *Gheelaun* in *Persia*, where the *Sherbasse* Silk is made, little of that Silk has come into *Turkey*, which made a principal Article of Returns from thence; the *English*, before that Time, usually buying at *Aleppo* and *Smyrna* at the least One thousand Bales one Year with another, worth about One hundred Pounds the Bale, and chiefly in Barter against Cloth, great Part of which the Silk Merchants carried back with them into *Persia*; and that altho' that Province has been restored to *Persia*, yet the almost continual Wars upon those Frontiers ever since, have so interrupted the Commerce between *Turkey* and *Persia*, that little or no Silk has been brought from thence, nor (it is to be feared) would there be, tho' that Cause should cease, which it must one Day do, since it is now permitted to bring that Silk through *Muscovy*.

That, besides the Silk Trade, Rhubarb, which was once a good Article of Return, is now also carried through *Russia*, and become a monopoly in the Hands of that Court.

That there is a Decrease here in the Consumption of some other Drugs, as well as in that of Gauls and Goats-wool.

That there is a very notable Decrease likewise, at the least of one Half, in the Consumption of Mohair Yarn, (which is a principal Article of Return) by the Change of Fashions, and Preference of Silver, Gold, Horse-hair or Metal Buttons to those made of Mohair Yarn; and which has been thought so important a Consideration, that there is an Act of Parliament to favour the Use of them.

That there has been, of late Years, so great an Increase in the Importation of Raw Silk from *Spain* and *Italy*, occasioned by the Facility of dealing for Money, (for all this is bought with ready Money, without the additional Export of a single Piece of any one Manufacture towards paying for an Increase to the Amount of One hundred thousand Pounds by the Year in the importing of Silk) that the *Turkey* Merchants cannot find ready Vent for the Raw Silk of the Growth of *Turkey*, which they take in Return for the *British* Manufactures they sell there.

And that there has been a great lessening in the Consumption of this raw Silk by the general Use of Thread or Cotton in the stead of Silk Stockings, and, it is to be feared, also by the illicit Introduction of *French* Silk Stockings.

It has also been further shewn, that the Members of the *Turkey* Company (for there is no joint Stock, but every one trades on his own separate Account) have constantly kept the Markets abroad fully supplied with the Manufactures and Produce of this Kingdom, as well as the Markets here with those of the *Levant*.

These are such clear and evident Causes of the Decay of the *Turkey* Trade, and each of them is so far out of the Reach of any thing contained in the Bill now depending in Parliament, that, if

if there was a moral Certainty no Inconvenience could arise from passing it into a Law, it seems an Experiment not worth making; and it is very remarkable, that a Disposition should prevail to attribute the Decay of the *English* Trade to *Turkey* to Restrictions and Regulations in favour of, or made by, the Company, when it has been so fully made out, that the *French* Trade, which has risen upon the Decay of ours, has been founded and carried on under closer Restrictions, and much stronger Regulations.

For the *French* Trade, at least the Exportation of Cloth, is confined to the Port of *Marseilles*, whereas every Port in *England* is open for the Trade to the *Levant*. The very manufacturing their Cloth is under Regulations, and subject to Inspection.

No one can go into the *Levant*, to settle as a Merchant or Factor, without a particular Permission; but by the *Levant* Company's Charter, as it now stands, any mere Merchant of *England*, those living in or near *London* being free of the City, or any Nobleman or Gentleman, has a Right to his Freedom of the Company, and may send what Factors (being his Sons or Apprentices) he pleases into *Turkey*.

Every *English* Factor sells his Goods when or to whom he pleases, or on what Conditions; whereas the *French* Factors must sell their Cloth at the Time fix'd by a general Agreement, at a certain Price, and in a limited Proportion; and in making Returns, some Sorts of Goods, particularly Wool, at *Constantinople*, can only be bought in that manner.

From this Comparison of the *French* Regulations and Restraints with ours, it may be naturally concluded, that as the Trade of both Nations is carried on to the same Places, if Regulations have hurt ours, they must have felt a like Effect on theirs; or if their Trade has been also hurt by them, it must have some other Advantages, which are out of the Reach either of the bad Direction their Trade may be supposed to be under, or of any better (it is meant of this kind) we may put ours under, since it has gone on increasing.

The Names of Trade and Woollen Manufactures carry great Weight with them; and the Opposers of this Bill profess they have no other Views than to rescue what remains of the Trade to the *Levant*, from the ill Effects they apprehend from this Bill, if it should pass into a Law.

Before any Remarks are made upon the Bill, it should be premised, that the Trade to *Turkey* is carried on under the Protection of the Capitulations, or Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between his Majesty and the Sultan, which was procured, and has been since upheld and renewed by a great Expence of the Company.

That by this Treaty the King's Subjects are put on a much better Foot, in point of Trade, than any of the Sultan's, who pay 5 per Cent. Custom; whereas the other stipulate only to pay Three, but which, by the low Valuation settled by an established Tariffe, amounts to little more than Two.

That by these Capitulations an *English* Subject, having once paid Custom, has a Right to demand a Receipt of the Custom with which he may transport his Goods from one Part of the Empire to another, without paying any other Custom, which no Subject of *Turkey* can do.

That there are some of the Articles of the Capitulations which are directly against the fundamental Laws of the Country; and which only can be supported by Power; which sometimes will not do; as, That Witnesses shall not be received against an *Englishman* without a Writing to establish a Debt; That in all Demands and Causes above the Value of about 6*l.* an *Englishman* may appeal to the Divan at *Constantinople*: Which, in a manner, exempt them from the Jurisdiction in the Provinces.

That no Minister of the Country shall interfere, in any Cause or Dispute between *Englishman* and *Englishman*, but the Decision is to be in the National Magistrates.

These great Exemptions must, no doubt, give great Uneasiness to the Farmers of the Customs, who see great Transactions pass, from whence they receive but little, and to the Pashas and other Magistrates, who are accustomed to raise Contributions every-where, and brook ill to see those from whom something might be had, almost altogether out of their Reach! So that it requires

requires a very even and steady Conduct, to avoid giving Occasions of Offence, which seldom escape Animadversion; and often slight ones are taken, or feigned ones urged, to extort Money.

The Quarrel between Sir *Kendal Digby* and the *Venetian* Admiral, in the Bay of *Scanderoon*, cost the *Turkey* Company above Twenty thousand Pounds: A Dispute between Sir *Sackville Crow* and the Nation, cost above Eighty thousand Pounds: A Pretence, about the Year 1680, that a Quantity of Pieces of Eight were not of the true Alloy, cost Seven or Eight thousand Pounds: A Detention of the Capitulations by a Vizier, and other little Disputes about the same Time, cost as much: The Rognery of a Captain who had taken a Freight at *Alexandria*, cost the Nation at *Cairo* a great deal of Money, and had like to have occasioned the Murder of them all: And the Indiscretion and Absurdity of a young Man, under *Dutch* Protection, at *Aleppo*, within these few Years, caused an Insurrection in that City, which threatened the Lives and Estates of all the Foreigners there: These are a few, out of many Instances, and which are to be met with amongst all the foreign Nations established in the *Levant*.

But to come to the Bill: The *Levant* Company never thought it of any immediate Concern to them, that Merchants inhabiting in or within Twenty Miles of *London*, should be free of the City, before they could receive them.

They have likewise considered the Fine taken for Admission to the Freedom of the Company, as a Point of very little Moment to them; tho' it was even much less than it is now put at, further than as small Fines might induce low mean People to be taking up their Freedom, and to be roaming in *Turkey* upon Projects and Adventures, to the Disturbance of the good Order established there, and the Danger of all the Privileges we enjoy: And upon the Experience of these Inconveniencies it was, that the Freedom of the Company was by the Charter limited to mere Merchants. (The Precaution was certainly most necessary: For tho' there may be Persons out of that Description, from whom nothing of this Sort can be apprehended, and who may be very fit and proper to be received into the Company; yet that cannot be an Argument for a general Admission, because, for these, Temperaments may be found.

But, besides those who, from their Ignorance, Absurdity, or evil Intentions, might be the Occasion of Scandal and Disorder in *Turkey*, there is another Sort of People, who (by the concurring Opinion of all who have lived in the *Levant*, and have any Knowledge of the Course of Mercantile Affairs there) ought not to be allowed to have any Part in that Trade; and they are the *Jews*: And this not under any Prejudice to them as unfair Traders, but from particular Circumstances with regard to those of their own Nation already established in all the Scales of *Turkey* as Subjects of the Sultan.

For this Opinion there are Two strong Reasons; one is, That they must endanger the Ruin of all our Privileges, and of course our Establishments in *Turkey*.

The other, That if the Trade can be supported, it must all fall into their Hands, to the total Exclusion of all the rest of his Majesty's Subjects.

It is notorious, that where-ever *Jews* are, they make one Nation; their Religion, in its First Institution, separates them from the rest of the World; and their *Unmixableness* (if the Word may be allowed) is an indelible Character. As they are not a People given to hard Labour, there are amongst them few Husbandmen, hard-working Handicrafts-Men, or Labourers; but the Poor amongst them generally subsist upon easy, handicraft Trades, retailing or changing Things from Hand to Hand in great Towns: This is remarkably the Case with them in *Turkey*, where, by a particular Application to Brokerage, they have generally worked themselves into that Employment, and at *Constantinople* this prevails so far, that, by the Circumstance of very many *Jews* keeping Cloth-shops, they have not only got the Monopoly of that Profession, but they have found the Secret to raise the Price of it beyond what is known in any other Part of the World: For, besides Three in the Hundred, which is paid between the Foreign Merchant and the Cloth-buyer, there are Numbers of *Jews* who ply all the Quarters where there are Shops; and they get a Brokerage of so much by the Yard for all Cloth, as well as for many other Goods sold by Retail, as upon a Medium amounts to Three in the Hundred more; and any Shop-keeper who should refuse to pay this, would be the Object of their incessant Persecution. Besides, they have usurped a Right of disposing and directing all Matters relating to Brokerage, so as to fix Brokers upon Merchants (for every Foreign Merchant must have his own Broker) against their Consent, to oblige them to keep them, whether they

they are fit for their Business or not ; and they have exacted the Payment of Brokerage of an *English* Merchant to a considerable Value where it had not been earned ; for he had turned off his Broker for Dishonesty. But this was not allowed as a Reason by the leading *Jews*, to whom this Matter was referred, as they had not been applied to.

This Power, which they have exercised with so high a Hand, is not founded on any sort of Authority they have, but is the Effect of close and illegal Combinations amongst themselves : For, as many of them are Bankers and Cloth-buyers, with whom the foreign Merchants have their Interchange, they have, when Opposition has been made to these Exorbitances, not only interdicted (or forbid dealing with) particular Merchants, but a whole Nation. And, in the Case of the *English* Merchant mentioned before, when the *French* Ambassador, from Regards to him, spoke to some of the Chiefs of them about it, and represented the Hardship of it, one of them answered him, That all Places had their Customs ; and if that Merchant did not comply with what was expected of him, he would find it a hard Matter to recover any thing of what was owing to him in that Place ; and named to that Minister the Sum which was owing to him amongst the *Jews*, which particular People had been obliged to give an Account of.

These Violences occasioned so general a Discontent, that they thought fit to abate a little of their Pretences, and Things were upon a more tolerable Foot : However, when the *French* Ambassador lately renewed the Capitulations, he got an Article to be inserted, that the *French* Merchants should employ whom they pleased for Brokers, and that none of the *Jew* Nation should pretend a Right of Succession to be a Broker to any *French* Merchant, or to assign any Stipend, or dead Pay, either to a Broker turned out, or to the Family of a deceased one.

This has put Things upon a better Foot for all other Nations ; but if *Jews* come once to be Members of the *Levant* Company, those *Jews* must co-operate with their Brethren in *Turkey* in this national Point ; for Brokerage is their main Support : We shall have Enemies amongst ourselves, and we and our Trade must be abandoned to their Discretion, which will put it upon a worse Foot than that of any other Nation.

The *Jews* are generally the Agents of the great Men in *Turkey*, and are employed in all the Custom-houses ; and long Experience has shewn, that when Innovations are attempted to the Prejudice of a foreign Nation, they are generally set on Foot by the *Jews* ; and how will it be possible to pursue any Counsels for our Defence and Security, when we have those amongst us who are united with those who seek to hurt us ?

The *Turks* have been accustomed to the King's Christian Subjects only, and to look upon them as those in Favour of whom the Benefit of the Capitulations is granted.

The *English Jews* will appear as a new Nation to them ; and, as they must see them resorting to the Synagogues of their Subjects, which, in all the Towns, are in separate Quarters from where the Foreigners dwell, they will in time begin to look upon them as one People with them, and make Difficulties of allowing their Goods to pass for the same Custom as those of other *Englishmen* were wont to do ; or to allow those Goods to pass free from Place to Place in *Turkey* with a Custom-house Receipt, from whence such Disputes may arise as may endanger the Capitulations.

If, upon the Encouragement of this Bill, *Jews* born in *Turkey* should (as no doubt they will) come to *England*, and be made Denizens, they might immediately demand their Freedom of the Company, and return to *Turkey* ; in this Case they would expect to be protected there, as other Members of the Company ; and the Ambassador and Consuls must, in Obedience to this Law, endeavour it : This may occasion such dangerous Contests, as may slacken that fast Friendship, which has so long subsisted between the Sovereigns of *Great Britain* and the *Porte*.

It may and will be worth the while of many *Jews* to pay the Fine to the Company, in order to go into *Turkey* without any View of trading to or from *England*, but to live or follow any other Employment there, and be protected as *English* Subjects ; and, upon the Hope of this, several will, in all Likelihood, go ; for with this Circumstance many would prefer the *Levant* to any Part of Christendom, as nearer the *Holy Land* : This would be a further Subject of Dispute with the *Ottoman* Court.

But the Bill says; Factors shall no longer be traded to, than whilst under the Protection of the Ambassador or Consuls: To this it is answered, That they must continue so for their own Security, otherwise they must immediately fall into the State of Subjects of the Sultan, and must pay the Poll Tax; and as to the Regulations of the Company, they will be under small Difficulty of submitting to them; for in a little time their Nation must have the forming them. But this does not separate them from their own Nation, or exempt them from its Jurisdiction, to which they are, by the strongest Motives, bound.

It has been urged, that these *English Jews* are in no Connexion with those of *Turkey*, but will live separate as *Englishmen*: But it is known they are the very same People; for as well Those, as These, are generally Refugees from *Italy* or *Spain*. And those very Persons, who have thought themselves most interested in the Event of this Bill, are no more *Englishmen*, than any *Constantinople Jew* may be at any Time by Denization.

It is known to all who have lived at *Aleppo*, that the *Legborn Jews*, who live there under *French* Protection, wear their Beards, and live and converse altogether with the *Jews* of the Place, with whom they intermarry. The chief Partner of the *Jew* at *Smyrna*, who has been cited in a late Case, does the same at *Smyrna*; and it is known, that they all contribute, in some Form or other, either by a Rate or free Gift, to the Maintenance of the national Poor; which is a heavy Charge, and many of them have been heard to complain of it as such.

Several of the *Jews* now living at *Constantinople*, and elsewhere, are descended from such as came from *Italy* under some foreign Protection; but, mixing there with their own People, the next Generation of them became Subjects of the Sultan: The same thing will no doubt happen with the *English Jews*; and as to such of them as may not marry, there are not wanting Inducements to their considering themselves as at Home in *Turkey*.

The Protection given to Stranger *Jews*, by the Christian Ambassadors in *Turkey*, is very different from what the *English Jews* are to have from this Bill; for those Stranger *Jews* are not considered as the Subjects of any one of the States by whom they are protected, but as Subjects of States not in Amity with the *Porte*, and who are allowed to resort to *Turkey*, under the Protection of some one of the Nations established there: But they are not received into the Community of any of the Nations they are under, or have a Place at their national Assemblies; nor can those who are protected by *France*, who are the greater Number, trade to or from *France*; and, in case of any Difficulties, they are to be helped out at their own particular Expence; they pay their Consulage, and are exempted from being treated as Subjects of the Country; and even in this, their Pretensions are to be treated with great Moderation.

The *Turks* allow the Protection of their own Subjects by foreign Ambassadors, with the Commission of an Honorary Druggoman in the same Manner; and a Vizier, or other great Minister, will often ask this as a Favour, in Behalf of a *Jew* or *Christian* they may be disposed to favour.

The other Reason against admitting the *Jews* into the *Levant* Company, is, that they will in time get all the Trade into their own Hands; but this is the least Inconveniency that can happen by this proposed Regulation: This Apprehension is founded solely on the Preference they will have from their Brethren in *Turkey*: The large Communities of *Jews* there, have a great Influence, which will be employed in favour of their Brethren against the King's Christian Subjects; and it must and will bear them down in the End. They are not afraid of the Skill or Industry of the *Jews*; those are in every Man, as God has given him Talents, and he has employed them: Nor are they apprehensive the *Jews*, by their Oeconomy, can go cheaper to Market than they; for they have seen as many Instances of Vanity and Excess in *Turkey*, amongst them, as amongst any other Set of People; and their national Expences there must be great. There have, indeed, been Suggestions that they could do Business for less Commission: But this is an Abuse; and there was lately a very flagrant Instance at *Constantinople*, of a *Jew* House, which had pretended to mighty Matters of this kind; and a great Circulation was carried on for some time, but all ended in a scandalous Failure; the two Partners disappeared; some of the Creditors upon the Place got somewhat in a sort of Scramble, but for the foreign Correspondents, who were chiefly at *Venice* and *Holland*, there was not any thing left. What, therefore, the King's Christian Subjects hope for, is, that they shall not, by this Bill, be put within the Reach of a most undue Influence and Preference; which must be the Case, if the *Jews* come at all into this Trade.

It has been urged, that the *Jews*, having great Influence in Trade in *Turkey*, may become Instruments for retrieving ours, by promoting the Sale of our Commodities; or by diminishing it still further, by discouraging them, if they should be offended: But this can have little Weight; for tho' the *French* and we deal in Cloth, yet they are different Sorts, and the Buyers must take that they can most readily dispose of; the *Jews* cannot influence the Taste of the People: This, then, is a most slight Foundation to build any Hopes upon; for the *French* do not allow the *Jews* to live in their Country; yet their Cloth sells in *Turkey*, and they wisely keep their Trade, as far as they can, under their own Direction, and out of the Reach of those who care no further for it, or them, than to make all the present Advantage they can of both; and in which we should do well to imitate them: And, with regard to our Clothiers at Home, if by this Bill the *Turkey* Trade should become a Monopoly in the Hands of the *Jews*, they would have little Reason to value themselves upon having been accessory to the Change.

By the Bill there is no Provision made for bringing Home Returns for Goods carried into *Turkey* from any foreign Ports, as Pepper, or other Spices, from *Holland*, Cochineal from *Cadiz*, Sugars from *Lisbon*, Wrought Silks from *Italy*; the Produce of which cannot be distinguished in Investments, tho' sometimes Returns, to a greater Value than the Imports, may be made to those foreign Ports.

There is the like Defect, as to whatever Improvements Factors may make in *Turkey*, either by the Interest of Money, Commissions from *Italy* or *Holland*, which are common, or Trading in the Country; as also, as to what may be saved by a King's Ambassador or Consul. Under these Omissions, the Oaths required of Factors in *Turkey*, as well as of the Captain of a Ship here, cannot be taken; and the Affirmation made now under the Order of the Company, answers all Ends much better.

The great Latitude of the Words which authorize Freemen to export or import at all Times, and to and from all Places, makes it impossible for any Magistrate Abroad to interpose, if a Ship should be laden in Time of Danger of Infection; for who will dare to go against the plain Letter of an Act of Parliament? There may be other very good Motives for the Detention of a Ship for a Time, such as a Dispute about Custom, which it may be the Interest of the Concerned to pay, upon a small Value, rather than lose Time, tho' the Precedent may be the Loss of a valuable Privilege to the Nation: And this is what there should be some Power to prevent.

As this Bill, when passed into a Law, will be a Part of the Company's Charter established upon a different Authority from the rest, there will always be Doubts and Questions how far the other Part may bind, especially as to the Penalties of Non-observance of By-laws, without which it will be to no Purpose to make them; and the rather, as there is no mention in the Bill of any other Payments to be made, or Monies to be levied, than by Assessments on Goods and Merchandize at Shipping, or Landing, or any thing expressed of Obedience to By-laws in the Clause of Admission, further than that all Members to be received shall take the Oath to the Company: But this authorizes not the levying Penalties, nor are any Means laid down for asserting the Charter by any Penalties on such as may incroach upon it. Indeed, it seems to be understood, that where this Bill does not direct, the Charter is to the rest in full Force: But Laws should be clear and express, and Looseness or Uncertainty about them are great Mischiefs.

Upon the Whole, it is allowed by the Promoters of this Bill, that it is intended only as an Experiment; but the making Experiments for the Sake of them, without Probability of Success, and at great Hazards, was never thought prudent. It is evident, that not one of the Remedies provided by this Bill, reach any of the Difficulties our Trade labours under. What new Member of the Company, or Number of them, can restore the *Persia* Trade, or enable our Manufacturers to make such Cloth, and so cheap, as we may rival the *French*? This must be the Effect of better Provisions, and the other the Work of Time and Events, assisted by Vigilance to improve them: But the Inconveniencies and Mischiefs that threaten on the other Side, are in View, and at Hand; and if they once reach us, will not easily be removed.

The *Turkey* Merchants would not interfere, where a National Good is concerned; but they would be sorry to see a hopeless Trial made, at the immediate Risque of their Estates, which they have sent Abroad upon the Faith of their Charter: And they therefore hope some Regard will be had for them by the Publick.

By the Bill there is no Provision made for bringing Home Returns for Goods carried into the
 As from any foreign Port, as Pepper, or other Spices, from Malacca, Cochin, from Ceylon,
 Straits from Java, Brought Shirts from Bata, the Produce of which cannot be distinguished in
 Investments, the Immunities relating to a greater Value than the Imports, may be made to those
 foreign Ports.

much better.

The great latitude of the Warrant which authorizes Freeman to export or import at all times, and to sail from all places, makes it impossible for any Magistrate abroad to intercept it, a ship should be taken in time of Danger of infection; for who will dare to go against the plain letter of an Act of Parliament? There may be other very good Motives for the Detention of a ship, and I am not a stranger to them, but I am not a Magistrate, and I am not the least concerned to prevent a ship from sailing, rather than to detain it, the President may be the Lord of a ship, and he may be the Lord of the Nation; And this is what the Law does not allow to prevent.

REASONS

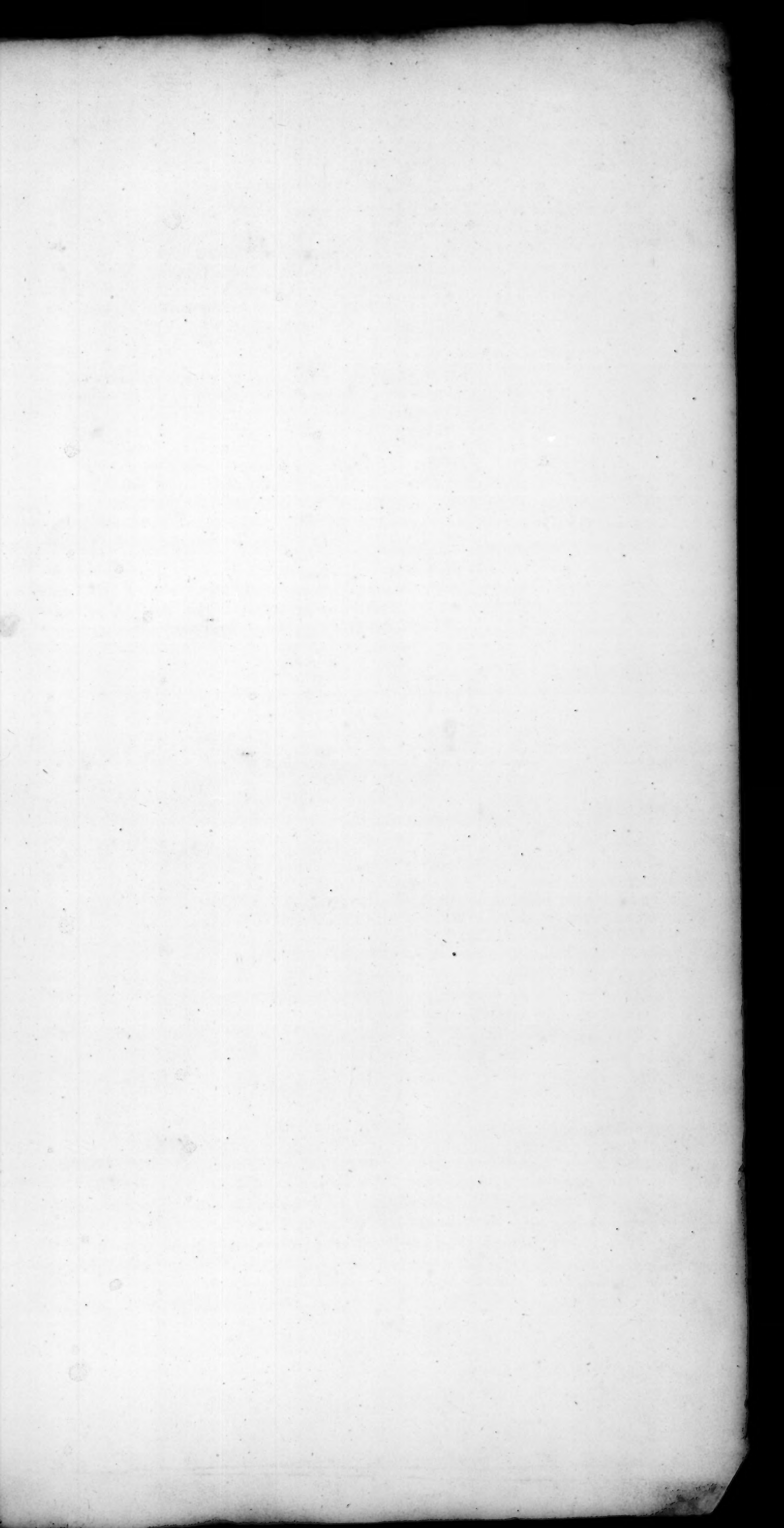
AGAINST
The BILL now depending in Parlia-
ment, intitled, *A Bill for Enlarg-*

the Levant Sea,
given away at the Port of the House
of Commons, 24 April 1744.

the Levant Sea.
I am yours, &c.
I am yours, &c.

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in Path-
for Entry
Trade 10
The House
of Commons

The Slavery Merchants would not interfere where a National Good is concerned; but they would be very ready to oppose a National Evil. They would be very ready to oppose a National Evil, which they have sent abroad upon the Faith of the Government, and they therefore hope some regard will be had for them by the Publick.



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W. H. Clinton

FACTS
RELATIVE TO THE
CONDUCT OF THE WAR
IN THE
WEST INDIES;

COLLECTED FROM THE
SPEECH
OF THE
RIGHT HON. HENRY DUNDAS,
IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
ON THE 28th OF APRIL, 1796,
AND FROM THE
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